

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 MCT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SY-05

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 IO-13 /069 W

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P R 020845Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2029

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJ: APPROACH TO GOJ REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REFS: STATE 212490, TOKYO A-279 16JUN75

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFFS CALLED ON MOFA OFFICIAL SAUGUST 31 TO EXPRESS
USG CONCERN OVER CONTINUING NEED FOR THOROUGH SECURITY MEASURES AT
JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. GENERAL CONSENSUS OF INDUSTRY REPS
HERE IS THAT ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY MEASURES AT TOKYO'S HANEDA
HAS IMPROVED APPRECIABLY OVER THE SITUATION A YEAR AGO. NEVERTHELESS,
THE JIGSAW PUZZLE LAYOUT AND CONGESTION AT HANEDA MAKE TIGHT SEC-
URITY ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH STRICT JAPANESE FIREARMS CON-
TROL ALLEVIATES DANGER OF TERRORIST ACTION. MOVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
AIRLINES TO NARITA DURING 1977 SHOULD MAKE TIGHTER SECURITY POS-
SIBLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED USG CONCERN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

WITH MOFA FIRST NA DIVDIR WATANABE ON AUGUST 31. EMBOFFS NOTED THAT INCIDENTS OF HIGHJACKING AND TERRORISM DIRECTED AGAINST AIRCRAFT HAVE DECREASED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS DUE, UNDOUBTEDLY, TO STRICTER SECURITY MEASURES. INCIDENT AT ISTANBUL SHOWED, HOWEVER, THAT AIRPORT TRANSIT LOUNGES AS WELL AS AIRCRAFT COULD BE OBJECTS OF TERRORIST ATTACK. AS A RESULT USG FELT IT NECESSARY TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT TO ONCE AGAIN STRESS IMPORTANCE OF ADHERENCE TO THOROUGH SECURITY MEASURES, NOT ONLY AT TOKYO'S HANEDA, BUT JAPAN'S OTHER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AS WELL.

3. EMBOFFS NOTED INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS SERVING HANEDA HAD BEEN CONCERNED LAST SPRING BY SLACK SECURITY (TOKYO A-279 16JUN75) AND HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH JCAB AIRPORT AND AIRPORT POLICE OFFICIALS. SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE INCLUDING TIGHTER CONTROL OF PASSES AND MORE SECURITY GUARDS AND POLICE AT GATES AND ON THE RAMP, PARTICULARLY IN CARGO AREAS. CONTINUING VIGILANCE AND AWARENESS, HOWEVER, MUST BE MAINTAINED.

4. WATANABE ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS DURING OUR PRESENTATION AND PROMISED TO RELAY OUR CONCERN TO HIS SUPERIORS AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE CANVASSED SEVERAL INDUSTRY REPS, INCLUDING THE HEAD OF THE AIRLINES' SECURITY COMMITTEE AT HANEDA AIRPORT. GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IS NOW "FAIRLY GOOD" AND THAT THE ATTITUDE OF PRESENT JCAB AND AIRPORT POLICE OFFICIALS IS MUCH MORE COOPERATIVE. THE JCAB OBTAINED ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR AIRPORT SECURITY IN THE JFY 76 BUDGET AND HAS REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN JFY 1977. THE TRANSIT LOUNGE IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL TERMINAL AND UNSCREENED PERSONS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MINGLE. TRANSITING PASSENGERS GO THROUGH A BODY AND HAND LUGGAGE SEARCH BEFORE REBOARDING AIRCRAFT. ONE INDUSTRY REP COMMENTED THAT SECURITY IS NOT AS STRICT OR AS CONSISTENT, HOWEVER, AS IT IS AT SEOUL OR HONG KONG AIRPORTS.

6. THE JIGSAW PUZZLE ARRANGEMENT AND CONGESTION AT HANEDA MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO SECURE ADEQUATELY. THE TWO INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED BY NORTHWEST AT HANEDA IN THE SPRING OF 1975 (REPAIR) INVOLVED PERSONS LATER JUDGED TO BE MENTALLY DERANGED: THERE IS LITTLE TO STOP AN ORGANIZED GROUP OF TERRORISTS FROM INFILTRATING EITHER THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAMP OR THE ARRIVAL/TRANSIT HALL. THE FACT THAT JAPAN MAINTAINS TIGHT CONTROL OVER FIREARMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATES THE RISKS. MOVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES TO THE NEW NARITA AIRPORT SOMETIME IN 1977 SHOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

7. IN SUM, THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS APPEAR, AT HANEDA, TO BE DOING AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED UNDER DIFFICULT AND CROWDED CONDITIONS. THE FAA SECURITY EXPERT BASED IN HAWAII HAS OFFERED HIS OFFICE'S

HELP TO THE JAPANESE DURING PERIODIC VISITS.

8. SECURITY SYSTEMS AT OSAKA AND NAHA AIRPORTS, ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY
REPS, RELY PRIMARILY ON SECURITY GUARDS BACKED UP BY AIRPORT POLICE
BUT OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS IS TIGHTER OWING TO LESS CONGESTION AT
THESE AIRPORTS.

9. JAPAN HAS RATIFIED BOTH THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS.

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